

Victor Faith Building
Cambria City Neighborhood
322-24 Second Avenue
Johnstown
Cambria County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5749

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

Victor Faith Building

HABS No. PA-5749

Location: 322-24 Second Avenue, Cambria City, Johnstown, Cambria County, Pa.

Description: No. 322-24 Second Avenue is a multi-family building set between a vacant lot and a multi-family building. The lot is bounded by Second Avenue, Chestnut Street, and Mullen Alley. It is a rectangular building, 33' x 26', with brick walls and a flat composition roof. It is three stories tall. The foundation is constructed of cut stone and concrete. A number of double-hung-sash, segmental-arched windows with projecting heads distinguish the building facades. Three concrete steps lead from each of two entryways on Second Avenue.

History: No. 322-24 Second Avenue was constructed between 1895 and 1911, probably in ca. 1900. Victor Faith, a prominent Fifteenth Ward businessman from Hungary, acquired two lots here in 1900. The 1900 and 1910 census records numerous renters living here, all Hungarian or Slovakian laborers and their families. For example, Julius Bobusa and his family of five lived here in 1900. The John Urabel family of ten, the Metros Nadjar family of two, and fourteen boarders lived here in 1910. This building illustrates the tendency of similar ethnic groups to congregate together and live in the same multi-family building.

Sources:

"Cambria County Historic Sites Survey, Johnstown Inventory," Redevelopment Authority of Cambria County, 1981.

Deed and Tax Assessment Records, Cambria County Courthouse, Ebensburg, Pa.

United States Census, Cambria County, Pennsylvania, City of Johnstown, Fifteenth Ward, 1900, 1910.

Project Information: This report was part of a larger project to document the city of Johnstown, Pennsylvania. The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), Robert Kapsch, chief, at the request of America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP). An overview of history of the city (HABS No. PA-5669) and an overview of the neighborhoods of Cambria City and Minersville (HABS No. PA-5672) provide context for these buildings as well as a comprehensive list of sources. See also additional HABS reports on buildings in the downtown and other neighborhoods.

This report was prepared by Jeffrey Hickey in August 1988 under the direction of Alison K. Hoagland, HABS historian, and Kim E. Wallace, the supervisory historian of the project. Hickey's and other project historians' work was published as The Character of a Steel Mill City: Four Historic Neighborhoods of Johnstown, Pennsylvania (Washington, D.C.: HABS/HAER, National Park Service, 1989), edited by Kim E. Wallace. Illustrations in the publication include large format photographs taken by HAER photographer Jet Lowe and 35 mm photographs taken by the project historians.